

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 4, 14, 15, 17, 20 and 21.

Please amend claim 2 to read as follows:

2. (Amended) An acid-dye and coffee stain resistant carpet comprising:

a backing material; and

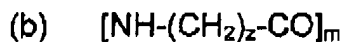
stain resistant sheath/core bicomponent face fibers affixed in said

backing material and bound thereto;

said face fibers comprising: a core of a first polyamide component; and
a sheath occupying from about 3 to 9 percent of the fiber and substantially or
completely covering said core, said sheath comprising a second polyamide
component which is inherently chemically compatible with said first polyamide
component, said second polyamide component comprising at least one stain
resistant polyamide polymer selected from the group consisting of:



where x and y may be the same or different integers from about 4 to about 30,
the sum of x and y is greater than 13, and n is greater than about 40; and




where z is an integer from about 9 to about 30 and m is greater than about
40;

(c) derivatives of (a) or (b) including polymers substituted with one
or more sulfonate, halogenate, aliphatic or aromatic functionality; and

(d) copolymers and blends of (a), (b) and (c);

Serial No. 08/715,724

 wherein said fiber has a percent steam heatsetting shrinkage value which is about 70% or less of a percent steam heatsetting shrinkage value of an otherwise identical fiber consisting of only said first polyamide component;

said carpet in an uncolored state having a red drink staining depth of less than 15 CIE ΔE units and a coffee staining depth of less than about 10 CIE ΔE units, and

wherein said inherently compatible polyamide component has a concentration of titratable amino end-groups less than 30 milliequivalents per kilogram.

REMARKS

In a decision mailed Nov. 21, 2002, the BOPAI affirmed the Examiner's rejection of claims 4, 14, 15, 17, 20 and 21. These claims are now cancelled.

The Examiner's rejection of claims 2, 3, 9 and 10 was reversed. However, claims 2, 3, 9 and 10 were all in dependent format. The present communication presents claim 2 in independent form. Claims 3, 9 and 10 depend from claim 2.

Accordingly, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and an action to that end is solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Serial No. 08/715,724

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